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No. 152

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 4, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable VINCE SNOWBARGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1026) "An Act to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States," agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. SARBANES, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1139) "An Act to reauthorize the programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes," with an amendment.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-33, the Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, and in consultation with the Democratic leader, announces the appointment of the following members of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY]; and

The Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER].

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] for 5 minutes.

SHAME ON VENEZUELA

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, actually more than 6 or 7 years ago, the gangster who used to be the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas, and his accomplice in some crimes and other activities, the former Prime Minister of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez, created a conference that meets every year named the Iberoamericana Summit and they invite the Latin American countries, heads of state and government, and of Spain and Portugal. They all curtsy to the king of Spain as though Spain still rules in this hemisphere every year when they meet, but the main purpose of Carlos Salinas' and Felipe Gonzalez' little gathering was to bring into the club and give credence and help out in every way possible their friend and certainly their accomplice in business and crime, the dictator of Cuba.

So the decrepit tyrant is invited every year to these meetings of elected

heads of state and government, and he sits there and he demagogues and offends the United States and lies about history, and of course offends even his own people, the people of Cuba, year in and year out.

It is grotesque that they have invited to that putrid system that they created called the Iberoamericana Summit, it is putrid because of the fact that it was born with that tyrant and it is offensive that they invite that tyrant year in and year out.

In a few days they will have another meeting, this time in Venezuela, with the decrepit tyrant, which of course the good news is not only is he decrepit and in his last months, but certainly his last years, because the good Lord is finally deciding to take him away.

But something happened yesterday in Venezuela as they prepare for the summit in a few days where they have invited again the decrepit, bloody tyrant and will treat him with all of the honors which really, Mr. Speaker, is beyond the pale. Cuban exile organizations went, as they have gone every year, to meet with all who will listen, to meet with the press, to have press conferences, to denounce what the decrepit, Cuban bloody tyrant does to his people. And the Government of Venezuela, led by President Caldera, yesterday arrested the Cuban exile leaders, some of them, by the way, Venezuelan citizens, and is expelling them from Venezuela so that the decrepit, bloody Cuban tyrant does not even have to have, in the country that he is in, anybody expressing any view in dissent of what the decrepit, bloody Cuban tyrant does to his own people.

So what President Caldera did is not only beyond the pale, it is condemnable, it is grotesque. It has gone beyond appeasement, Mr. Speaker, and it is in fact a disgusting, a disgusting act which now has become cowardly complicity with the torture apparatus of the decrepit tyrant in Havana.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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